(d) whether unusually high transactions have been found on specific counters in Delhi, Patna, Kolkata, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) During Pooja season special checks were conducted and 150 touts/unauthorized travel agents were apprehended and prosecuted.

(b) During last 10 months, 30 Railway Officials have been taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules for connivance with touts/travel agents.

(c) Special checks were conducted by Zonal Railways including Northern Railway, on the instruction of Railway Board's Vigilance Department during the period August, 2009 to September, 2009.

(d) No such case has been reported.

Scheme to track trains through satellites

1807. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have recently approved a scheme to track trains through satellite;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed scheme;

(c) whether the scheme would be in the interest of railway commuters; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (d) A pilot project "Satellite Imaging for Rail Navigation (SIMRAN)" was approved in 2003, to be developed jointly by Research Designs and Standards Organization (RDSO) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur. The project has been jointly funded by Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). The projects can provide online train running information to public/passengers. Field trials have been conducted and results are being analysed.

Increase in train accidents

†1808. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in train accidents in the last year;

(b) whether their investigations have been completed;

(c) whether shortage of employees is one of the reasons;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.